

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S
NEW YEAR POEM

This Spring will by far outshine all the past springs.
The tidings of battles won will spread elation throughout
the land of the South and the North.

South and North will vie in fighting U.S. foe
Forward!

Our total triumph is an assurance double sure.

VIETNAM
COURIER

Information Weekly - 5th Year - No 154 - March 4, 1968

Editor: Mr Tran Hung Dao, Hanoi - Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 26, 1968

HEROIC SOUTH VIET NAM WON TREMENDOUS, ALL-SIDED VICTORIES CHANGING WHOLE ASPECT OF WAR

- * Nearly All Parts of Countryside and Many Urban Areas Placed Under People's Control; 1,200,000 More People Freed; Revolutionary Rear Base Considerably Expanded.
- * More Than 290,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action or Disbanded (Including 20,000 U.S. and Satellite Troops and 70,000 Puppet Soldiers Killed, Wounded or Captured).
- * Important Portion of Enemy Military Potential Destroyed.
- * Shattering Blows Dealt at Puppet Army and Administration.
- * Enemy "Pacification Programme" Reduced to Nothing.

(THIRD SPECIAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF P.L.A.F. COMMAND)



P.L.A.F. night assault

U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUATION OF WAR

Following the statements of Jan. 28, 1967 and Dec. 29, 1967, the statement of Feb. 8, 1968 of D.R.V.N. Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh to the AFP correctly and clearly indicated the way to talks between the D.R.V.N. and the United States. It once again made clear the just position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and once again was given a warm reception by broad sections of world public opinion.

Everything has been made plain: Does the U.S. want to talk with D.R.V.N.? The D.R.V.N. is an independent and sovereign state which has fallen a victim to U.S.

* (Continued page 4)

Welcome Spring 1968!

TO HUU

Brothers and sisters!
Raise high your guns, hail Spring 1968!
Hail the epic Spring!
Spring of brave hearts.

Who comes there, brimming with Spring?
Hurray, Liberation fighter!
Salute to You, the finest of fine men!

History hugs you, bare-footed lad
Who lives fearless, dauntless, on earth,
Thach Saig(t) of the 20th century,
Falling on the U.S. aggressors even with a bough or a
sharp bamboo spike.

Not looking at yourself, you will never know,
Valiant fighter!

In the five continents, truth is watching
Your marching elbowstrong... your hat
That looks like a water lily.

O soft canvas hat, as fragile as a little hand.
That does not even bear a tear on its brim.
That shines on the fighter's head like a patch of blue sky,
That rampages here and there, right and left, irresistible,
Stronger than all the bombs and bullets, frightening even
the Pentagon!

May I ask: has the Truong Son (2)
Any peak higher?
Than that hat of revolutionary heroism?
Thanks to our Party; it has brought us light,
It can't yet send us to Vents,
But has given us a soul and a heart
That know what is right, how to love, and how to hate,
How to forehead, and win battles!

Translated by Tran Van Chuong

What a joy today! This Spring morning
Off we go, our hearts flying, on the wings
Of each cloud, of each gust of wind.
The North wind that is blowing South!
O winds and clouds, don't wait for the Spring sun's
return.
Fly and cover the truck convoys
And the troops streaming towards the frontline...

Our Fatherland! Twenty-three years of hardships and
sufferings, of enduring fighting.
Forward!

Our total triumph is an assurance double sure! (3)
O people at home and all over the world and far-off,
battlefields,
Listen... The two years are meeting,
Uncle Ho is calling. Spring is coming...

Hurray heroic Spring of 1968!
Let all our cannons thunder!
And you, fearless fighters, forward!
With the magnificent mettle of the Traxis, Les (4), with
the awesome impetus of Quang Trang (5)
Everywhere, in the towns and in the countryside,
Crush the Yanks and the infidels!

For Independence and Freedom, for our majestic moun-
tains and tumultuous streams,
For the sacred values of Man,
For the flowers and leaves to remain for ever fresh and
green,
We shall win — And wrest the most beautiful Spring!

(1) A legendary peasant hero of Viet Nam who killed a monster eagle and saved the royal princess.
(2) The Long Range running along most of Viet Nam's length.
(3) Quoted from Ho Chi Minh's 1958 poem.
(4) and (5) Tran Hung Dao, Le Loi, and Nguyen Huu, three of the greatest national heroes of Viet Nam.

U.S. GOVERNMENT...

(Continued from page 1)

aggression and been subjected to
blatant U.S. bombing and strafing.
It talks to be made, but in the end
of all the U.S. must stop unconditionally the bombing and all other
acts of war against the Viet Nam.
The talks are to be made as that additional stop has been proved and both
sides will discuss questions as to a
settlement of the Viet Nam. On the
basis of the 1963 Geneva Agreements
and other questions which could be
raised by either side.

Among the U.S. political circles
many well-known figures, including
Senators Mike Mansfield, John Sherman
Connally, Eugene McCarthy, Robert
Kennedy, have been called to
follow and demand that the Johnson
administration stop bombing North Viet
Nam so as to get talks started.

In a statement on Feb. 24, on the
American side, D.R.V.N. Secretary
General U Thant also expressed the
conviction that the unconditional end
of the bombing and other acts of
war was demanded. D.R.V.N. also
meaningful talks. On Feb. 26, Sweden
Foreign Minister Torstensson declared
that the talks will take place after the
U.S. has ended the bombing of North
Viet Nam unconditionally. On Feb.
27, the Government of Finland also
issued a statement pointing out that
the cessation of the bombing of North
Viet Nam is a precondition for the

talks to begin. On Feb. 28, the French
Government expressed the view that
the unconditional cessation of the
bombing of North Viet Nam is necessary
and sufficient to lead to talks between
the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.

In disregard of world public opinion
which has condemned it and opinion from
its disastrous setback on the
South Vietnamese people, who enjoy the
sympathy and support of progressive
peoples around the world, the U.S.
Government, which has shown obduracy
ever since it has been in power, has
not shown any sign of yielding.

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The Vietnamese people and the
D.R.V.N. Government firmly reject
this insolent condition. For the
South Vietnamese people, who are
the main people, will not forgo
public opinion which cherishes justice
and the aggressor and the victim of aggression.

The Vietnamese people are
determined to stop the war
and the iron will of the Vietnamese
people to preserve national independence
and freedom will not be confused
and placed on a par.

The Thieu-Ky clique of
traitors forced and directed by the U.S. can in
no way be placed on an equal footing
with the South Viet Nam N.F.L.
and the undignified cessation of the
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(THIRD SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE OF P.L.A.F. COMMAND)

Cavalry Division has been left with only
very important strategic significance.

What the enemy regard as their

most important and powerful

the main props of their troops has

been badly hit. As a consequence, the

morale of U.S. puppet and satellite

units has dropped to a new low.

...We have dealt shattering blows at

the puppet administrative system and

expanded the people's control.

The puppet regime of the Thieu-Ky

clique of traitors at the command and

under the command of

and are paralysed and disintegrated.

The puppet administration at the provincial

and district levels is also in a moribund

state. There are many reactionary

organizations in almost all

the villages and hamlets have been

captured or forced the enemy to

withdraw from more than 700 posts

and watch-towers. We have completely

disrupted the U.S. puppet's

plan

which was so vital to the enemy,

120,000 more of our people have been

liberated from their grip.

In less than 30 days and nights our

army and forces have launched

most daring attacks against the enemy

and staged uprisings in all towns, cities

and provincial capitals in South Viet

Nam, and seized many key positions of

the enemy. From the central to local

and provincial levels, the provinces

seized control of many places

and inflicted heavy losses on the U.S.

puppet and satellite troops as well as

the puppet and municipal people's

administrative organs.

The army and forces have

achieved great success of ours. Our rear

and base areas have been considerably

expanded, strengthening from the

coast to the interior, the control of

the main part of the vast rural area and

many urban areas, and are speedily

setting up revolutionary power at all

levels. The Thieu-Ky - Huu Peat

Reform Committee is coming

to be assumed the tasks of a provincial

and municipal people's

administrative organs.

Yet such as British Foreign

Secretary George Brown has gone

to the length of endorsing the U.S. San

Antonio formula. The

U.S. has been

discredited and disgraced

in the eyes of the world.

...We have wiped out a major part of

the enemy's effective.

According to first statistics, we have

killed, wounded, or taken

prisoner more than 60,000

U.S. and satellite troops. Whole adverse

units have been wiped out: 3 armoured

regiments, 1000 combat vehicles, 1000

armoured transport vehicles, 1000

motorcycles, 1000 combat

and support vehicles.

...We have destroyed a substantial

number of U.S. bases.

...We have destroyed

the U.S. First Air Mobile

Division.

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In short, we have won success of
very important strategic significance
and military and political.

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and base areas have been considerably

expanded, strengthening from the

coast to the interior, the control of

the main part of the vast rural area and

many urban areas controlled by the

people and control of sources of inexhaustible

strength for us to win victory.

Never have the enemy experienced so

serious a political decline and decay as now.

The "constitutional government"

of the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors

is completely discredited and disgraced

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P.L.A.F. SCORE NEW VICTORIES:

HUE: Over 1,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action.

HIGHWAY No 9: TA CON Completely Encircled; DONG HA, Con Tien under P.L.A.F. Artillery Fire.

NAM BO and WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX: TAN SON NHAT, BIEN HOA, BEN TRE AIRFIELDS POUNDED; U.S. BARRACKS at CU CHI, PLEIKU, DAKTO, KONTUM VIOLENTLY ATTACKED.

BETWEEN Feb. 18 and 27, the P.L.A.F. continued to attack the enemy violently on all battlefields.

In HUE city they forced the enemy to show up in his desperate attempts to retake the city and inflicted heavy losses on him.

From Feb. 22 to 24, they foiled a dozen counter-attacks mounted by a dozen battalions of U.S. and puppet troops in the field. The parties, killed or wounded nearly 1,000 enemy soldiers, put out of action one company, burned 15 military vehicles, including 13 U.S. armoured carriers, sank 9 war vessels, downed 2 aircraft, and wiped out 2 resistance nests set up in two dwelling houses.

On Feb. 27, the P.L.A.F. scored a direct hit at a U.S. landing craft on the Perfume River, 2km north of HUE. The craft was blown up and many G.I.'s were killed.

As the situation grew tense in HUE, the battle raged on the front north of Highway No 9.

On Feb. 24 alone, the P.L.A.F. shot down 4 choppers and 2 vessels at Cu Viet and sent to the bottom 2 other boats at Dong Ha port.

The following day, the P.L.A.F. attacked simultaneously TA CON, a few kilometres north of Khe Sanh. Seven G.I.'s who were repairing their tanks and carrying away water brought in by choppers were killed by P.L.A.F. sniping fire.

The next day, the enemy encirclement around TA CON, the P.L.A.F. units, attacked simultaneously TAN SON NHAT, BIEN HOA airbases and the DUC CADET school (12km from the former). They killed 39 G.I.'s killed or wounded and many aircraft destroyed or damaged. On Feb. 28, the P.L.A.F. intercepted a column of U.S. tanks, 10km north of TAN SON NHAT airbase, causing many casualties among them; they also shelled the base of U.S. Infantry Division 25 at Cu Chi, 32km northwest of Saigon.

In the DAU MOT province, north of Saigon, on the night of Feb. 17, the P.L.A.F. attacked and occupied Dau Tieng townlet, hammered at

dig in deep in their fortifications. In one day TA CON was shelled four times. Its gun emplacements, radar site, ammunition dumps and aircraft parking ground were hit by the P.L.A.F. and its live helicopters, a munition depot, a heavy gun and a military vehicle were destroyed.

That is why on Feb. 26, the P.L.A.F. was forced to send out another clearing mission. Though progressing cautiously, the rescuing group suffered heavy losses.

In advance party, it completely cleared out, having 26 men killed on the spot. The P.L.A.F. captured a great quantity of firearms including 43 machine-guns and mortars, 43 anti-aircraft guns and two anti-aircraft mortars.

In a co-ordinated action with TA CON, on Feb. 26, the P.L.A.F. heavily shelled the petrol dump, explosive depots and aircraft parking field at DUC CADET school. The dump was set afire and the ammunition depot blown up. Many C-10 four-engine destroyers and choppers were destroyed.

At the same time, the P.L.A.F. continued to storm the remaining enemy bases in BEN TRE town. On the night of Feb. 23 alone, they caused heavy damage to the military port, the C-10 and the airfield, razed many posts to the ground and destroyed many bridges.

Fighting in the NAM BO (South Viet Nam province) theater was also fierce. On Feb. 24, the P.L.A.F. attacked simultaneously TAN SON NHAT, BIEN HOA airbases and the DUC CADET school (12km from the former). They killed 39 G.I.'s killed or wounded and many aircraft destroyed or damaged. On Feb. 28, the P.L.A.F. intercepted a column of U.S. tanks, 10km north of TAN SON NHAT airbase, causing many casualties among them; they also shelled the base of U.S. Infantry Division 25 at Cu Chi, 32km northwest of Saigon.

In the DAU MOT province, north of Saigon, on the night of Feb. 17, the P.L.A.F. attacked and occupied Dau Tieng townlet, hammered at

the enemy in HUE town, overran 6 posts along strategic Highway No 13, shelled Lai Khe and the base of Regiment 5, and intercepted an enemy rescue party. The latter tried to rescue an enemy column of reinforcements 3km north of Thu DAU MOT town, the P.L.A.F. entirely wiped out Battalion 11, Regiment 5, Division 5.

On Feb. 28, they destroyed 11 tanks, overran a post and wiped out Company 16, Battalion 4, puppet Regiment 7, and captured 20 men in Cu Chi district.

60km southwest of Saigon, the P.L.A.F. continued to attack the enemy within and around MY THO town. On Feb. 28, they destroyed 11 tanks, overran a post and wiped out Company 16, Battalion 4, puppet Regiment 7, and captured 20 men in Cu Chi district.

In the Western High Plateaux, on the night of Feb. 27, the P.L.A.F. attacked simultaneously DUC CADET school, 12km north of TAN SON NHAT airbase, causing many casualties among them; they also shelled the base of U.S. Infantry Division 25 at Cu Chi, 32km northwest of Saigon.

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RECENT events in South Viet Nam have given birth to the jitters. President Johnson despatched General Wheeler to Saigon on a 3-day on-the-spots investigation as soon as the news of the capture of the South Vietnamese Chiefs of Staff returned to Washington, a war council was held and long sessions devoted to the search for a solution to the situation which was obviously a desperate one for the Yankee neo-colonialist undertaking.

Let us skip Wheeler's public declarations, which are but an expression of what he believed optimistically the Johnson administration's tradition. Didn't he for instance proclaim, with deadpan seriousness, that the South

- The war brought into the midst of Saigon itself which is subjected to daily attacks and bombardments by the People's Liberation Armed Forces. The American forces reduced to that defense as admitted by Westmoreland himself; the American Command in disarray, not knowing what to do, completely in the dark as to the design of its adversary;

- The U.S. "two-pronged strategy" doomed to failure; the famous "pacification" program gone bankrupt; the few victories gained under U.S.-puppet control fallen in the people's hands beyond recovery, all forces having been withdrawn to

What Is General Wheeler Going to Propose to the White House?

Vietnamese people's Tet offensive had resulted in heavy defeat for the patriots, that the puppet army had proved its worth in those dramatic days, that the American forces had by no means been taken by surprise etc., etc. Almost every report in the Western—particularly American—press is a flood of detail of such assets as the tribute paid to Westmoreland by Wheeler, who assured him of President Johnson's "full confidence," can it be anything more than a reminder for the sagging morale of the 500,000-strong American expeditionary corps?

Leaving the propaganda side out of count, the Wheeler mission has been given the alarm to the master of the White House. A somber picture indeed it had found in Saigon:

A 20,000-strong group composed of American staff, state and puppet troops completely powerless, and suffering heavy losses, before the tidal wave of the people's assaults, which submerges the people. Saigon, Viet Nam, including the urban lairs of the Americans and their puppets;

defend the cities; The puppet administration is torn by the two puppets of U.S. neo-colonialism, in full disintegration; the third of the Saigon troops disbanded, the rest thrown into disarray; that more sinking and their combative ness vanishing fast; the Thieu-Ky clique more and more isolated and torn up by internal dissensions (especially by defeat), as evidenced by arrests in Saigon and purges of senior officers of the puppet army;

— Beyond the frontiers of South Viet Nam, the evermore difficult position of the Americans and their "local allies" in Laos, under the blows of the Laotian patriots, and in Vietnam, the Great Rear of the Southern revolutionary forces, stands firmer than ever.

Such was the situation before General Wheeler's eyes. Now, what could he recommend to the White House?

As stressed by an AFP correspondent in a despatch from Saigon dated Feb. 23, "it is from such bitter facts that one must work out

(Continued page 7)

REPEATED ATTACKS ON TAN SON NHAT AIRBASE



TAN SON NHAT airbase after P.L.A.F. Feb. 17 night raid

TAN SON NHAT is the fifth busiest airport in the world. The H.Q. of General Westmoreland is located there. The enemy brag that this airbase is protected by 21 rows of barbed wire and various kinds of mines, patrolled every 15 minutes in the night by U.S. convoys and possesses a system of powerful searchlights which can light up a region within dozen kilometres, thus making it impossible for any Liberation fighter to sneak in. Yet between Jan. 31 and Feb. 27, 1968, the airbase was the target of more than ten powerful attacks of the revolutionary armed forces of Saigon-Gia Dinh.

On Jan. 31, at 2.30 a.m., after a heavy artillery shelling, the Liberation fighters broke into the airfield in many columns and assaulted

many times the U.S. Staff. The clutter of rifles, machine guns and explosions of hand grenades resounded from all sides. Taken unaware by the U.S., the puppet commands were in a turmoil, their rank and file fled helter-skelter. The commander of U.S. Air Wing No 7 took to his arm helicopters from other places to bomb the barracks in the airfield through a great number of wounded puppet soldiers had to be evacuated. Almost most of the searchlights were destroyed, the enemy had to send up flares without let-up to get control of the area.

The following days, the revolutionary forces occupied the northern and western parts of the airbase and other places. On the night of Feb. 3, they struck directly

(Continued page 6)